

Derbyshire Gritstone Way Guided Trail

Tour Style: Guided Trails

Destinations: Peak District & England

Trip code: DVLGR

Trip Walking Grade: 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The Derbyshire Gritstone Way was Derby Ramblers contribution to Footpath Heritage Week in 1980. The walk goes through water meadows, ancient oak woodlands, parkland and heather clad moors. There is much of scenic, historical and industrial archaeological interest. The route to the east side of the Derwent Valley occasionally follows the valley floor but more often uses the tops of the Edges. Moorland walking gives a sense of the desolation faced by the jaggars (packhorse drivers) as they crossed the moors. There are tales to tell of murdered priests, the construction of Ladybower reservoir and "Shivering Mountain" (Mam Tor).

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- High quality en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day
- The services of an HF Holidays' walks leader
- All transport on walking days

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Discover the Derwent Valley and famous Gritstone Edges
- Walk the Great Ridge from Lose Hill over Mam Tor to Edale, start of the Pennine Way
- Experience Chatsworth and the World Heritage Site of the Derwent Valley Mills

TRIP SUITABILITY

This Guided Walking/Hiking Trail is graded 3 which involves walks/hikes on well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged footpaths. These may be rough and steep in sections and will require a good level of fitness as you will be walking every day. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday.

Fitness

We want you to be confident that you can meet the demands of each walking day and get the most out of your holiday. Please be sure you can manage the mileage and ascent detailed in the daily itineraries. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.

It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Day 2: Derby To Belper

From Derby the route enters Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage site and follows the river. We take a brief visit to the Cathedral to view the peregrines and then on past Lombe's silk mill erected in 1717, the earliest factory in the world. Leaving the urban environment we walk through Darley Park and Darley Abbey village, home of Evan's cotton mill settlement. Turf fields are crossed en route to Little Eaton, once the terminus of various horse-drawn tramways that linked the coalfield to a spur of the Derby Canal. Other points of interest today include the Chevin (part of the ancient Portway), Jedidiah Strutt's cotton mill village of Milford and finally a moderate descent leads to Belper. Good footpaths and lanes throughout.

12 miles (19km) with 600 feet (180m) of ascent.

Day 3: Belper To Cromford

The gentle ascent from Belper leads to Ridgeway with a view of Heage windmill. A short descent to Bullbridge village follows where we access the Cromford Canal tow-path. The canal is a Site of Special Scientific Interest and home to a population of water voles. The heart of the World Heritage Site beckons as we pass Leawood Pumping Station and then the Wharf Shed, originally the transshipment point between the canal and the Cromford and High Peak Railway. High Peak Junction is home to the oldest railway line in the world. At the terminus of the canal we reach Sir Richard Arkwright's cotton mills and industrial village with a village trail that explores listed pig sties, the village lock up and frame-work knitters' cottages. Field and woodland paths and some surfaced routes along the tow-path and in the villages.

11½ miles (18km) with 600 feet (180m) of ascent.

Day 4: Lea Bridge To Beeley

We enter the Peak District National Park and after a steep ascent beyond Smedley's Mill complex we reach Bilberry Knoll, a viewpoint over the Derwent Valley. Rough bridleway and field paths lead us towards Riber Castle, a Victorian folly. Following a descent to the village of Tansley, country lanes, woodland and field paths are used to reach the moors of Chatsworth Estate. The woodland route to Beeley is below Fallinge Edge.

13 miles (21km) with 1,250 feet (380m) of ascent.

Day 5: Beeley To Grindleford

From Chatsworth Park an ascent to Nelson's monument on Birchen's Edge follows and then to Wellington's Monument on Baslow Edge. Reaching the Eagle Stone, a fine gritstone boulder, means the hard work of the day is done. Our route hugs the top of Curbar and Froggatt Edges with wide ranging views west towards the plateau of the White Peak. We'll look down on 'Colditz' and admire Chatsworth's Emperor Fountain from a distance. There's a tale to tell of the unpleasant death of two Roman Catholic priests following their arrest at nearby Padley Chapel. Today's route uses field and woodland paths and surfaced bridleways.

11½ miles (18km) with 1,100 feet

Day 6: Grindleford To Yorkshire Bridge

The brook-side ascent through Padley Gorge with its ancient oak woodland managed by the National Trust gives a marked contrast to the later part of the route today. We follow Burbage Brook heading for Burbage Edge. Open moorland surrounds us as we head for Stanage Edge, used by Himalayan mountaineers for their training in the 1960s. We see evidence of ancient packhorse ways that used to cross this Pennine wilderness area – the call of the red grouse often the only sound hereabouts. The descent is along a bridleway and then country lanes to Yorkshire Bridge – the village built to rehouse residents of Ashopton and Derwent when Ladybower reservoir was built. Good paths throughout.

9½ miles (15km) with 1,000 feet (330m) of ascent.

Day 7: Heatherdene To Edale

We walk across Ladybower Dam then ascend close to Parkin Clough to the summit of Win Hill, 1,518 feet (463m). A descent to cross the Vale of Edale near Townhead and then another steep ascent to the summit of Lose Hill 1,563 feet (476m) where we meet the Great Ridge. The walk follows Back Tor, then Hollins Cross (an ancient track-way through the lowest point of the ridge) and on to Mam Tor 1,695 feet (517m), site of an Iron Age hill fort. Below us we see the effects of the 'Shivering Mountain' on the old main road and views south towards Winnats Pass and Castleton village. The descent to Edale village with the National Park Information Centre with its exhibition of Moorland Management is on field paths.

9 miles (14.5km) with 2,200 feet (670m) of ascent

Day 8: Departure Day

ACCOMMODATION

The Peveril Of The Peak

The Peveril of the Peak, named after Sir Walter Scott's novel, stands proudly in the Peak District countryside, close to the village of Thorpe. Backed by the cone of Thorpe Cloud, which guards the entrance to Dovedale Gorge and the famous stepping stones at the entrance to the gorge, it's an ideal base for people hoping to explore the Derbyshire countryside. Surrounded by extensive grounds and rolling countryside, it's a picturesque retreat with 46 rooms, large shared spaces and a pleasant bar. Stride out from the house to find Dovedale's

wooded ravine, cave-like Dove Holes and of course stepping stones. Upstream lie the heights nicknamed the Dovedale Castle and the Twelve Apostles, best viewed from the grassy spur called Lovers' Leap. While the Peak bit of the area name refers to small English hills rather than great summits, there's superb walking to be had on the Roaches and the gritstone escarpment of Stanage Edge, while Chatsworth, Tissington and Bakewell make attractive places to explore too.

Matchless Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Need To Know

Important Covid-19 Steps We Have Taken For Guest Safety: Please Read

As we slowly reopen in the wake of the Coronavirus lockdown, our country house stays are set to be organised a little differently; extra steps have been taken to keep our guests, house teams and leaders safe while we return to action. We ask all our guests to respect the measures put in place.

Initially the overall capacity of the houses has been reduced. Guests must wear face coverings in public spaces. To adhere to social distancing guidelines, we have taken the necessary steps to space out furniture and seating in public areas. In addition, a one-way system will be in place around the house. Adequate signage will be displayed to support the direction of travel to be followed by guests and house teams.

As a temporary measure, we will not be servicing rooms during a stay. Extra tea, coffee, milk, and toiletries will be made available on request for all guests. It is recommended that guests bring their own toiletries for the duration of their stay. We have removed all non-essential and reusable items from our rooms for the meantime including cushions, hairdryers, bathrobes, bed throws, and printed materials to reduce the number of items that need to be disinfected. Hairdryers will be available on request. Clean towels will be available on request. We will though be increasing the frequency of cleaning in our public areas providing particular attention to frequently touched items including door handles and handrails.

For now, there is no cream tea on arrival day. We have also adapted our food offering to remove all buffets and open food items. Different sittings may be required for breakfast and dinner due to the occupancy and size of the house. Picnic lunches will now be pre-ordered the night before from an order form in the room. The bar in each country house will be open, and we will be offering a table service for drinks. At this time there is no, or only a very limited, evening social programme available. Outdoor swimming pools at those houses that have them will re-open throughout August, except at Freshwater Bay House, where the pool will remain closed for 2020. Indoor swimming pools will remain closed.

For more information and to see all the steps taken, [visit our page on how house stays will be adapted](#).

Rooms

Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi

Stay in the smartly presented rooms in the main house. With 46 rooms, Peveril of the Peak has plenty of space and there's a range of Good and Better Rooms to choose from. Room 2 on the ground floor (accessible via 7 steps down from reception) is spacious and attractively styled with a door opening on to the grounds while the Chatsworth Room has a four-poster bed to recline on.

All 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress and larger televisions – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-20 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.

Facilities

Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, extensive garden, lounge, bar, ballroom, library and board games to borrow

After a day delving into the Dovedale Gorge or exploring the Peak District, return to the house. Relax on the patio with a coffee or cold drink and soak up the wide-ranging countryside views. Take a turn through the garden and look out for the small canon on one of the lawns. Make your way inside to sit comfortably in the lounge where there's a stash of wood and a log burner for those colder days or snag a seat in the bar with your fellow guests and sip a great local ale by the large windows.

Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at Peveril of the Peak is varied and tasty and has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Once a week the dining room hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might try a five-course feast of regional flavours that might include venison sausage and Derbyshire oatcake, roast rump of Chatsworth lamb and a homemade Bakewell tart with a scoop of decadent Peak Dairy cherry Bakewell ice cream.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865

TRAVEL DETAILS

Our address is: The Peveril of the Peak, Thorpe, Dovedale, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 2AW
Tel: [01335 350396](tel:01335350396)

By Rail:

The nearest railway stations are Buxton or Derby. For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone 03457 48 49 50.

By Taxi:

From Buxton railway station a taxi takes approximately 45 minutes and costs around £42 if pre-booked. From Derby railway station a taxi takes approximately 40 minutes and costs around £32 if pre-booked. Please note these are 2020 prices relevant to a 4-seat taxi and should only be taken as a guide. 8-seat taxis can be booked at a higher rate. Ashbourne Taxis, our current recommended taxi company, can confirm prices on booking and will arrange shared taxis wherever possible. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Ashbourne Taxis*
Tel: +44 (0) 1335 345198

Mob: +44 7811 196686
Email: ashbourne-taxis@hotmail.co.uk

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Peveril of the Peak Manager.

*Ashbourne Taxis is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

By Bus:

There is a bus service as far as Ashbourne, about 3 miles from our country house. From Buxton take the 442 service or from Derby catch the SW1 service. For bus times see www.travelineeastmidlands.co.uk

From Ashbourne complete your journey by taxi, or use the Derbyshire Connect service (01335 342951). The taxi service must be pre-booked in advance by calling 01335 345198 the journey will take approximately 10 minutes and costs £8 for a 4-seat taxi.

By Car:

From the south leave the M1 at junction 24 and head to Ashbourne via the A50 and A515. Continue north on the A515 heading towards Buxton. 1 mile north of Ashbourne turn left, signposted to Thorpe, Dovedale and Ilam. After a further 2 miles the road bends sharply left by the Old Dog pub. The Peveril of the Peak lies ahead at the bottom of the hill. Look out for the sign.

From Buxton take the A515 south towards Ashbourne. After 17 miles turn right at a crossroads, following signs to Thorpe. After 1 mile turn right by the Old Dog pub. The Peveril of the Peak lies ahead at the bottom of the hill. Look out for the sign.

From the west leave the M6 at junction 15 and head via the A50, Cheadle (A521) and Oakamoor (A5417) to the A52. At the junction of the A52 and the A523 take the minor road signposted to Ilam. After 1½ miles turn left and descend the hill. Cross the bridge at Ilam, turn right and follow the road up a steep hill and onwards through Dovedale and Thorpe village. The Peveril of the Peak is on the left hand side at the end of the village.

Travel From Overseas

Dovedale is located in the centre of the UK, with a number of airport options.

East Midlands Airport is about 30 miles away - this is served by short-haul European flights. If you're flying here we'd recommend pre-booking a taxi direct to the Peveril of the Peak.

London Luton Airport has lots of low-cost European flights. From here take the shuttle bus to Luton Airport Parkway station, then on by train to Derby with 1 change at Leicester. Allow 1 hour 50 minutes to Derby - see www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times. Complete your journey by taxi (see above).

Manchester Airport has a much wider range of long-haul flights. There are trains every hour from the airport to Buxton with one change at Manchester Piccadilly. Allow 1 hour 40 minutes to Buxton - see www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times. Complete your journey by taxi (see above).

Flying to London Heathrow Airport is another option, but has a longer onward train journey - allow 3 hours to reach Derby. From Heathrow first take the Piccadilly line Underground train to London St Pancras. From here take a train to direct to Derby - see www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times. Complete your journey by taxi (see above).

LOCAL AREA

The Peveril of the Peak occupies a wonderfully peaceful location in the village of Thorpe, and is surrounded by the rolling countryside of the Derbyshire Dales. The nearest facilities are in the small town of Ashbourne, about 3 miles away. Here you'll find a full range of shops plus supermarkets, banks, chemists, pubs and cafés.

During your stay you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest:

Dovedale

One of the natural wonders of the Peak District, the spectacular limestone valley of Dovedale is less than 1 mile from The Peveril of the Peak – just follow the footpath signs from the car park.

Chatsworth House

Home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, [Chatsworth House](#) is one of Britain's most visited stately homes, which sits at the heart of a huge estate. Throughout the house there are fine displays of furniture, silver, tapestries, porcelain and paintings. The formal gardens cover 105 acres and include fountains, sculptures and a maze. Chatsworth is around 50 minutes' drive from The Peveril of the Peak.

Crich Tramway Village

Located near the village of Crich, about 45 minutes' drive away, the [National Tramway Museum](#) has an impressive collection of vintage trams which run on a recreated historic street.

Buxton

The Regency spa town of Buxton is about 19 miles from the Peveril of the Peak. Two key attractions are [Buxton Opera House](#) and [Poole's Cavern](#) show cave.

Castleton

The popular village of Castleton is an excellent starting point for walks in the 'Dark Peak'; just under an hour's drive away. Nearby are four extensive show caves: [Peak Cavern](#), [Blue John Cavern](#), [Speedwell Cavern](#) and [Treak Cliff Cavern](#).

Bakewell

Home to the famous 'Bakewell Pudding', this is one of the most attractive small towns in the national park. Bakewell is around 35 minutes' drive away.

Alton Towers

The huge [Alton Towers](#) theme park is only 30 minutes' drive away and is a very popular option for families.

Cromford Mills

[Cromford Mills](#) is the home of Sir Richard Arkwright's first mill complex, birthplace of the modern factory system and internationally recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This fascinating sites dates from 1771 and is about 35 minutes' drive away.

Haddon Hall

A fortified medieval manor house, dating from the 12th century. [Haddon Hall](#) is located near Bakewell, about 45 minutes' drive away.

Tissington Trail

The [Tissington Trail](#) is just half a mile away from The Peveril of the Peak. This offers 13 miles of traffic-free cycling along a disused railway line and connects with the 17 mile High Peak Trail. Cycle hire is available nearby.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Holiday Information

We try to create a relaxed atmosphere on the walk but please listen to safety instructions from your leader.

Keep members of the group in view especially when weather or visibility is poor. If you leave the group, then your leader will no longer have responsibility for you. Our leaders consider the safety of the group as a whole and are likely to be more cautious over potential risks such as bad weather.

Essential Information

"There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong type of clothing!" goes the adage. Come prepared for all eventualities and you'll walk in comfort as well as safety. Britain's famous for its changeable weather, so here's our advice on what to wear and bring.

Essentials

- Waterproof walking boots providing ankle support and good grip.
 - A waterproof jacket and over-trousers
 - Gloves and a warm hat (it can be chilly at any time of the year)
 - Rucksack
 - Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
 - A small torch (everywhere in winter, year round in mountains)
 - Sun hat and sunscreen
- Denim jeans and waterproof capes are not suitable on any walks.*

Recommended

- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed
- Specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- A first aid kit inc plasters– your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication
- Sit mat (insulated pad to sit on when you stop for a break)

You Might Also Want

- Walking poles, particularly useful for descents.
- Insect repellent
- Flask for hot drinks
- Rigid lunch box
- Gaiters
- Blister kit (eg Compeed) just in case
- Waterproof rucksack liner

Useful Information

Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your Guided Walking/Hiking Trail and are delighted to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.

Please ensure you complete and hand in your registration form on arrival and let the leader know about any medical problems you may have. This may be useful in the event of a problem on the walk and will be treated confidentially by the leader.

In The Event Of A Problem

If you become separated from the party, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you.

All our leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack. Call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas).

Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

Your trail leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For your own interest you may consider buying or looking at some of the following:

1:25,000 Maps: OL 1; OL24; OL259

1:50,000 Map: Buxton 119

The Derwent Valley Mills and their communities - about industrial archaeology and the World Heritage site.

Cromford Revisited by Doreen Buxton & Christopher Charlton.

The Peak District National Park guide for a general overview of the area & the geology of the Dark Peak

<http://www.derbyramblers.org.uk/articles/walkingroutes/72-the-derbyshire-gritstone-way.html>

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £20 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

Document produced: 28-01-2021

